

Minnesota Wisconsin Collie Rescue

Finding new hope and new homes for homeless collies.

Health Scourge 2012: WNV.....1	MWCR Newsletter, October 2012 Volume 1, Issue 10
Lou: A Thundershirt Story.....3	Allie & Bella: A Tail of Two Collies 10
Collie-Amities5	Responsible Pet Ownership Day 11
Bailey: 10 Years Post-Adoption7	Servant for the Underdog Collies 13
Give to the Max Day8	Strangers in the Mix: Goldzilla Report.... 14
Bandit: Let the Name Fit the Crime.....9	



The Health Scourge of 2012: West Nile Virus

By Dr. Ryan Speltz

Hello, fellow Collie Rescue friends. The topic this month is one that has a few of us a little scared for our pets these days, no thanks to the media telling us of the fears of the virus in our dogs. The virus I speak of is the West Nile Virus (WNV) in our dogs and cats.

Here is what we know for sure. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has seen a relatively small number of West Nile Virus cases in our pets throughout the Midwest and the nation reported by veterinarians. WNV causes fever, lethargy, and mild nonspecific signs. It is unlikely that most pet owners would notice any of these signs easily. Dogs and cats become infected when bitten by an infected mosquito. Hence using animal-safe mosquito repellents is your best prevention; for example, use something like **Cedarcide PetSafe Red Cedar Insect Repellent Granules** in your area to prevent mosquitoes. There is also evidence that cats can become infected with the virus after eating infected mice; hence keeping the cats inside is best.

There is no specific treatment for West Nile Virus infection and no vaccine available. Full recovery from the infection is likely unless underlying medical issues are present. Treatment would be consistent with standard veterinary practices for animals infected with any viral agent.

If your animal becomes infected with WNV, this suggests that there are infected mosquitoes in your area. I would implore you to wear longer clothing and use a DEET repellent--if able--to protect yourself. There is no evidence of dog- or cat-to-person transmission of West Nile Virus, according to the CDC. This suggests that dog licks, feces, blood, or bites will not spread WNV from dogs to other animals or people.

So, when you hear on the news that dogs with West Nile Virus need to be destroyed, call in and inform the news people of their



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Health Alert: Parvovirus

An outbreak of canine parvovirus in the Willmar, MN (Kandiyohi County) area this month has prompted us to remind you to make sure your pet's vaccinations are current. Well over a dozen cases, including some deaths, have been reported within the last 3 weeks.

Canine parvovirus is highly contagious. It is transmitted by direct contact with the feces of an infected dog or indirectly through contaminated objects such as hands, clothing, toys, bedding, or food and water dishes. Some symptoms of the parvovirus include vomiting, lethargy, and severe bloody diarrhea. Puppies, all dogs under 1 year of age, are most susceptible to parvovirus. If left untreated, parvo is usually fatal.

Our advice is to make sure your dog is up to date on all vaccinations. Use caution when walking your pet outdoors and avoid areas where other dogs have been sick, especially if your dog hasn't been vaccinated. If your dog shows any symptoms or you have any questions, please contact your veterinarian.

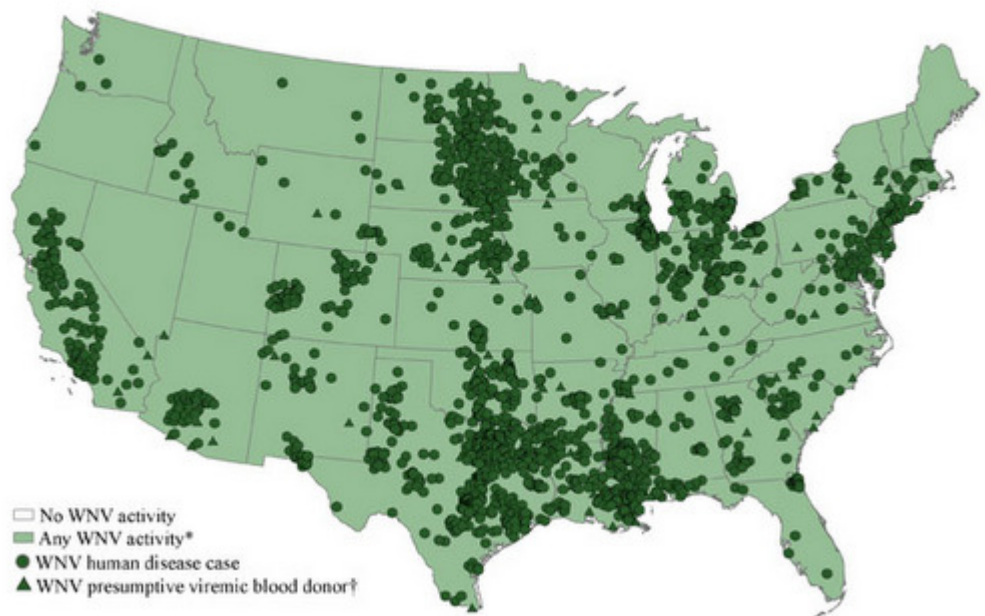
(cont'd from page 1)

error. There is no reason to destroy a pet or a rescue dog just because it has been infected with West Nile Virus; the animal will live and recover and not spread the virus. Our dogs and cats can get the virus, yes, but they do better with it than we human folks.....hence, fear the mosquito, kill and repel the mosquito, and keep us and our pets safe.

Happy Halloween, everyone!

Editor's Note: *Dr. Speltz is MWCR's board veterinarian, and he is also the doctor who treated both Milo and Chester, who were featured in the September newsletter. Dr. Speltz is at Skyline Veterinary Hospital in Fridley MN. MWCR is grateful to Dr. Speltz for his expertise and generosity in caring for Milo and Chester and many other MWCR Collies.*

West Nile virus (WNV) activity reported to ArboNET, by state, United States, 2012 (as of September 18, 2012)



Be sure to connect with MWCR on:



<http://www.facebook.com/MWCRcollierescue?sk=wall>

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**Does this
Thundershirt
make my butt look
big?**



While Thundershirt season is almost over, don't forget to plan ahead. You can purchase Thundershirts from the MWCR Collie Shop. We carry Medium, Large, & X-Large in stock; other sizes must be special-ordered.

<http://www.mwcr.org/merchandise.htm>

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Lou: A Thundershirt Story . . .
By Gail Toussaint

I adopted Lou at age 10 from MWCR in the fall of 2011. He had been given up after 10 years because his owners had a baby and Lou no longer fit into their lives. For the past 21 years I have been adopting older dogs out of rescue, so I snatched him up immediately. Lou is a beautiful, intelligent, slightly high-strung herding dog, and he came to me with over-reactive barking and a full-blown case of storm anxiety. His previous owners used to lock him in the garage to deal with his destructive behavior, and after 10 years of that treatment, his reactivity and anxiety was pretty well entrenched.

Spring is full of storms in MN, so I had the month of April 2012 to witness his fear and destructive behavior due to the stress. He would start 'ramping up' when the storm front was about 50 miles away and the barometric pressure was changing. Kenneling him was not an option, as he bent a heavy duty wire kennel trying to get out. Lou & I headed to Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlook to buy a Thundershirt, after 2 storms this spring, and my getting absolutely no sleep during those storms, the paint scratched off a door, and a wooden arm ripped off of a bench in the front hall.

We put the Thundershirt on him in the store and IMMEDIATELY he was less high-strung. He was interested in socializing with the customers and other dogs in the store and he walked around the store displaying totally pack appropriate behavior and greeting people. It was amazing, just like someone just flipped a switch inside of him. He wore his Thundershirt periodically over the next week just to get him pattern trained to feeling calm and having that calmness associated with wearing the Thundershirt.

The next storm rolled in 5 days later and the difference in him was incredible. He paced and panted some and went into the bathroom, but he was not destructive or crazed from the stress. Each storm it continues to get better, and we now have established a routine and his safe spot for when a storm is coming. Sometimes he will walk over to where I have his Thundershirt hanging and nose it before a storm comes because he wants it on. His overall demeanor has become calmer, the reactive barking has diminished and he is now a dog aligned with his genetic hard-coding and not a basket-case victim of stress. He was my first dog who had storm anxiety, and I knew about Thundershirts, but never needed one - thank God for it!

The picture of him is outside on the deck during a light rain and he is calm and scenting the air like a normal dog. There is not a lot of dog under all that Collie fur. Bet you never knew the Butt Sisters had a brother named Lou!



Get Well Soon, Eileen!!!

MWCR member, foster, and adopter Eileen S. is hospitalized after being badly injured in a car accident on October 21.

Eileen was delivering mail as a substitute driver when a tire blew out on her car. The car ran off a 60-foot embankment and rolled twice, landing in a field below.

Luckily, the horses pastured in that field, one of whom must be named Lassie, let the landowner know that something was very wrong. When he came to investigate the uproar, he found Eileen and notified authorities.

Eileen has a Collie and a cat who are being cared for by neighbors.

MWCR has contact information for Eileen if anyone would like to send a card or call her; inquiries may be sent to collietalk@yahoo.com.

Coming Events . . .

- Oct. 6 Great Minnesota Pet Together
Minnesota State Fairgrounds International Bazaar,
St. Paul MN 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. MWCR will have a booth at this event
- Oct. 6 Harvest Howl, Wildlife Science Center, Forest Lake MN
11:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m. MWCR will have a booth
- Nov. 8 Pause 4 Paws Fundraiser
Medina Entertainment Center, Medina MN
5:00 – 10:30 p.m. Buffet, silent auction, live auction, live music, information tables featuring rescue groups
- Nov. 15 Give to the Max Day
12:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
E-mail us to become a matching fund sponsor!
- Nov. 17 MWCR’s Annual Dinner Meeting and Fundraiser
American Legion, Wayzata MN
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Buffet, silent auction, presentation by animal communicator Ilga Cimbulis, and fabulous desserts!

Editor’s Note: MWCR has two events occurring on September 30, a bit too late to make this edition of the newsletter. Photos to come later!

New Intake Coordinators Appointed . . .

MWCR is pleased to announce the appointment of Barb Heideman and Joan Tadisch as our new intake coordinators. Thank you so much, Barb and Joan!

In the next few weeks, Barb and Joan will be working with Leslie Ciaccio, our long-time intake coordinator, during a transition period. MWCR owes a great debt of gratitude to Leslie for her years of service as intake coordinator. She has been MWCR’s first line of contact with shelters, owners, and the general public in matters related to intake of needy Collies.

Thank you, Leslie!

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MWCR Contact Information:

To contact a board member:
bod@mwcr.org

To volunteer to foster a Collie:
foster@mwcr.org

To report a needy Collie:
intake@mwcr.org

To request general information:
collietalk@yahoo.com

To adopt a Collie:
adoption@mwcr.org

MWCR Board officers:

President: Mary Hickerson

Vice President: Cindy Willman

Secretary: Terry Libro

Treasurer: Douglas Christman

Board members:

Leslie Ciaccio

Mary Hall

Chris Norman

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Collie-Amities: [events that bring terrible loss or great misfortune as a consequence of the actions of Collies; see [calamities](#)]



Nothing beats curling up with a good book. And the older and rarer, the better. First editions are my faves! They have a very special flavor, like a perfectly aged filet mignon. Mmm, yummy!

-- Chet, AKA Chester the Molester

Perfection is boring & overrated. I made a few "cosmetic changes" to Foster Mom's face to give it character, but she is such an ingrate! Sooooo unappreciative! Sheesh! And now she calls herself "Scarface!" Whatever. I still say it is a BIG improvement

-- Lucy



I'm a Humper! I just have so much love to give -- especially to that cutie Brogan! That 'Wild Thing', he makes my heart sing! Ohhhh, is that him now?

-- Riley, AKA Casanova



Hastings: The Other Side of the Story

by Lily McCalla

Hi. My name is Lily, and 13 years ago, I was a tiny little ball of fluff living with my momma cat and four brothers. Three of my brothers were very nice, but the fourth one was a cranky, mean bully. Then one day a lady came to see us, and she wanted to adopt two of us. Naturally I was the first one she chose, but then she had to decide which one of my brothers to pick. I prayed and wished and hoped and crossed my paws that she would choose my favorite brother, George, or any of my brothers except Hastings the Bully. Well, imagine my misery when she picked the worst possible brother.

Over the years, my human mom has come to realize the error of her ways. She now knows that Fang (one of my pet names for him) was the wrong choice. If I'm curled up, sleeping on the bed, he bites me and drives me away. If I'm eating my dinner, he shoves me aside and eats it all himself. If I'm sitting in the window watching the birds, he leaps up and knocks me off my perch. Stalker (another of my pet names for him) even tries to attack me when I'm using the kitty facilities, i.e. the litter box. It never ends.

I keep hoping that my family will volunteer Attila the Persian to be the cat tester for a really mean Collie or even a pit bull, but my human dad seems to love him. Easy for him, he isn't the one being chewed on regularly!

Well, that's my story. I've come to realize that the only way I'll ever get rid of him, is when one of us crosses the rainbow bridge. In the meantime, I stick real close to my mom for protection and think happy thoughts about the good brother, George, that didn't get picked.

Adoption applications for Hastings should be sent to Lily c/o the MWCR Bio Lady. He is FREE! (But non-returnable!)

Collie-Amities (cont'd from page 5)

I have very eclectic and discriminating tastes when it comes to treats. My personal favorites are remote controls, dirty underwear, eyeglasses, sheets, bedspreads, cell phones, etc. After all, dogs need fiber too!

-- Jackie Blue



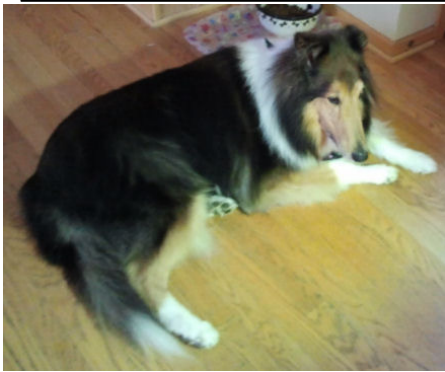
I love to terrorize my sister Lily, but don't believe a word that sniveling girl has to say. I am truly an angel, even if I DO love to stalk her to the ends of the earth. When I manage to corner her, I love to bite her neck, but at least she hasn't called me Dracula, so I'm pretty sure she enjoys every moment of it! She is just a whiner, while I am perfect in most every way! Just ask my Dad!

-- Hastings

Editor's Note:

Please send us information about your Collies' antics—lovable or otherwise--and we'll use the photos and stories in future Newsletters. If you have an accompanying caption, that's fine, or our Webmaster Deb will create one. Please send photos and dog tales to Deb at webmaster@mwcr.org. Tales about un-Collies are welcome, too. Just ask Hastings!





Bailey: An 11-year Post-Adoption Update

Bailey turned (top left and below) 11 years old in June, having been adopted in 2001. Despite joining the ranks of the canine senior citizens, he is doing very well and he is still mischievous! He managed to get out last winter and was hit by a car. His family was devastated but he is recovering very well although his front leg has healed incorrectly. He is still able to get around, and all things considered, he is doing wonderfully well. His family adores him.

Yee Haw, It's Toon Ordering Time!



An order for **McCartney Toon** merchandise will be placed in time for the holidays. If you'd like to place an order, go to <http://goo.gl/kEJP5> or email Deb at webmaster@mwcr.org.

Merchandise for most breeds is also available upon request – email webmaster@mwcr.org for designs for other breeds.

The order will be placed around the beginning of November, and for those shoppers attending MWCR's annual fundraiser dinner, we hope to be able to deliver your order to you there.

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Sarge, Adopted Summer 2012



Pretty Beth, who is undergoing HW treatments



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Give to the Max Day . . .

On November 15, MWCR will participate in Give to the Max day. This is a day when nonprofit organizations join in a huge fundraising effort orchestrated through GiveMN.org.

MWCR is seeking donors to become matching fund sponsors. Matching Fund Sponsors pledge to donate an amount of money once their challenge has been matched by donations from other sources. Matching Fund Sponsors provide a great incentive to donors! Donors know that their smaller donations will be matched through the generosity of the Matching Fund Sponsor, thereby doubling the effective donation amount.

Matching Fund Sponsors can also be employers. Many companies offer to match donations made to charitable organizations by their employees. If you can donate, be sure to check with your employer to see if they participate in such a venture as this can greatly increase the amount raised.

If you can be a Matching Fund Sponsor, e-mail webmaster@mwcr.org with the amount you are willing to pledge as a Matching Fund Sponsor. The matching fund total that is our goal should be posted in early November, about 7-10 days before Give to the Max Day, so early notice of your pledges allows us time to total all our pledge amounts and set up the donation page.

Immediately after midnight on November 15, 2012, the clock starts ticking, and donors can now take up the challenge made by the Matching Fund Sponsors.

While officially Give to the Max Day lasts only 24 hours, we can continue our Matching Fund Challenge until all Pledges have been matched.

If you know of someone—individual or company—who may be interested in becoming a Matching Fund Sponsor, please contact us at Webmaster@mwcr.org.



"Let me get this straight...you say the 'dog' ate your homework? So that's your story and you're sticking to it?"

**-- Lucy, FKA Suzie
Adopted Summer
2012**



Bandit: Let the Punishment, er....Name, Fit the Crime!

Bandit by name, Bandit by nature. In his previous life, Bandit was known as Briar, a name which was quickly changed to provide a more accurate description of his pawsonality! Bandit is a sneaky fellow who likes to steal socks and other items for his chewing pleasures. He has gotten quite comfortable in the house and has developed his favorite spots on the couch, under the bed, and of course playing outside. He enjoys helping with landscaping and can frequently be found "pruning" (aka chewing) the rosebush. Maybe that is why he is growing like a weed!



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Allie & Bella: A 'Tail' of Two Collies

By Jan, Allie & Bella Van Sloun

Happy Fall Everyone,

I'm Allie on the left and that's Bella my sometimes annoying sister on the right (she always takes the squeaky from me). I came to MWCR 4 years ago as a stray and Bella came 2 years later. We were adopted by an awesome family in MN. We really like our new digs, especially when the little kids come to visit us! We are also big protectors of our yard! We don't care if it's on the ground or in the sky we let them know we're there protecting with our voices, if we get too loud then mom puts us in the house (we don't want to bother the neighbors she says-not sure what that means but okay).

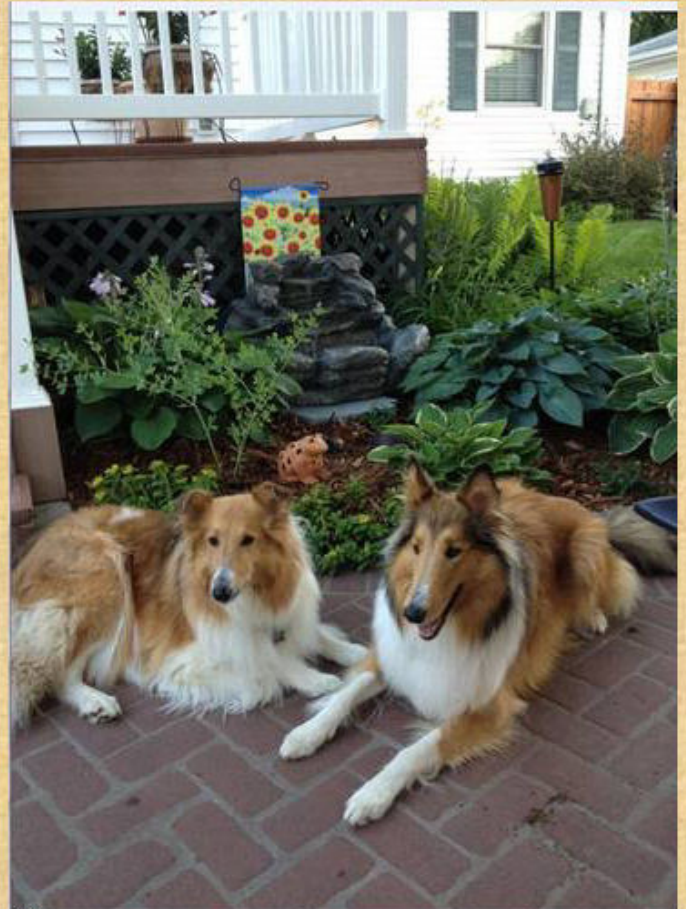
We love our family and want to "THANK" MWCR for putting us together.

WE ARE A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN!!!!

Hello,

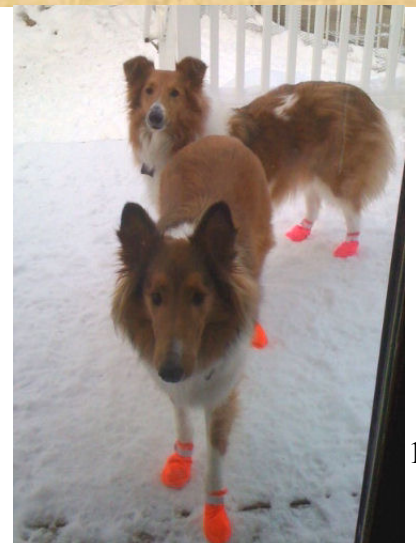
This is Jan the Mom. We are truly blessed to have been able to give a new take on life for Allie & Bella, some dogs are not quite so fortunate. They have become an essential part of our family!! Allie is still a little timid at times, something that comes from her previous life before coming to the MWCR but for the most part she has become a wonderful & loving pet who doesn't take life for granted. Bella came to us as a puppy and for a while had some alpha issues, mainly with me. With the help of the MWCR I received all kinds of advice from previous adopters & foster parents. With this advice Bella has grown up to be a loving, pretty lady. She will hop into your lap as soon as you sit down, silly girl. I try to explain to her she isn't a puppy anymore but then she looks at me with those dark eyes and of course I give in. They really do love their yard but mostly they love their family, I feel like static and I have these two hairballs that won't come off☹

Thank you MWCR for matching collies with their new families, a task that takes a special kind of heart☺



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MWCR at Responsible Dog Ownership Day & AKC Canine Experience: Sept. 8th

MWCR participated for the first time in the Responsible Dog Ownership Day event on September 8 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Lake Elmo, Minnesota. The event was sponsored by several dog clubs in the area with the goal of educating people in responsible dog ownership as well as giving attendees the opportunity to watch demonstrations or participate with their dogs in obedience, rally, agility, conformation handling, weight pulling, cart pulling, and earth dog activities.

MWCR member Barb attended with Collies Emily and Laddie. Barb and Emily entered several competitions and even won a ribbon—hurray for them and great job representing MWCR! MWCR's booth had many visitors, including several Collies and their owners from the Collie Club of Minnesota.

Although most booths only provided information on their organization or club, we were able to bring a few MWCR items to sell to raise money. The famous prize wheel, which generates much in donations, stayed home, but MWCR merchandise was very popular. Thanks to our gorgeous models, Emily and Laddie, the Jezebel collars were a huge hit. Emily and Laddie had a good time selling items to a new group of customers.

A big thank you to Barb, Emily, and Laddie for making this event a huge success!



Left: View of the Competition Rings from the MWCR Booth

Below: Visitors from the Collie Club of Minnesota



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Responsible Dog Ownership Day (cont'd from page 11)

Collie Ambassadors and Sales Clerks, Laddie and Emily



Customers & Visitors



Servant for the Underdog Collies

By Barb Heideman

It's been an interesting first week on the job as MWCR Intake Coordinator! More than once I've asked myself how I got here and the answer is always the same: I love dogs and want to help, and I so much appreciated the efforts of those who have made this organization so successful. Raised during the classic 1950's TV years of Lassie and Rin-Tin-Tin, I acquired a particular affection for the herding breeds and in adult life have been infatuated more than once with the sweet and goofy personality of a particular Collie. Last year, I fostered my first Collie for MWCR.

I first came upon the MWCR website a few years when we were looking for another family member to fill the hole in our hearts when our beloved Collie mix, Reggie, crossed the Bridge. Reggie was our first dog (as adults), adopted many years before from a Good Samaritan who had pulled him from a local shelter. Little did we know that we were embarking on a canine-driven journey that would change the course of our lives.

During the "Reggie Years," I was privileged to find myself on the cutting edge of the off-leash dog park movement, along with a couple of other cranky middle-aged women that I happened to meet because of Reggie. Together we founded the non-profit organization "ROMP" and over several years worked with local governments in the Twin Cities area to create and build one of the premier off-leash dog park networks in the nation. Also during those years I became something of an amateur expert on canine social behavior and taught puppy socialization classes at Twin Cities Obedience Training Club (TCOTC), gradually creating off-leash converts from the dog obedience training community.

Recently my husband, two dogs, and I "retired" to north shore of Lake Superior in Grand Marais, MN. After settling into our new life over the summer, I reapplied to foster for MWCR and we now have Collie Fox in our care. Somehow, one thing has led to another and here I am—a humble, but lovable, servant for those Underdog collies that need a new chance at life.



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Strangers in the Mix at Goldzilla

By Gail Toussaint & Lou, MWCR Foreign Correspondents at the Scene

Every September, Retrieve a Golden of Minnesota (RAGOM), the Golden Retriever rescue serving Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota, sponsors, Goldzilla, the Golden Retriever Fun Fair and Walk for Rescue. Goldzilla 2012 was September 22nd in Shoreview MN and Collies were well represented at this year's festivities.

Collie Lou (MWCR #2898), adopted last fall, accompanied his adoptive mom, Gail, and her RAGOM adopted puppy mill rescue, Lacy, to the event. Lou decided to also invite his MWCR foster mom, Tina, and her resident Collie, Shelby. So, Lou and Shelby attended Goldzilla 2012 as honorary "Rough Coat Golden" for the day.

Needless to say, Lou & Shelby received tons of attention and they both want to attend again next year. Being such intelligent dogs, Lou & Shelby looked at all the high pack drive surrounding them and immediately began acting like Golden Retrievers (except for barking much more than a Golden).

Here are some of the activities Lou and Shelby watched (What! No herding demos?):

- Hennepin County sheriff's office Bloodhound demo
- Musical entertainment
- Tips for training & stump the trainer Q&A
- Fundraiser 5K walk
- Flyball demo
- Current foster dog showcase parade
- Raffle & door prize drawings & silent auction winners
- Amateur Canine Freestyle
- Basic Animal Rescue Training (BART)
- Skijoring demo.

Lou and Shelby also enjoyed visiting every vendor's booth and receiving samples of everything that was available. A special surprise happened when they stopped by the booth of Critters and All (<http://www.crittersandall.com/>) to look at some wonderful merchandise. Lou & Shelby discovered the booth belonged to Linda from MWCR, and they insisted on having their picture taken in front of Linda's booth.

If you want to watch a delightful three-minute video from the event, visit the Goldzilla 2012 home page (<http://www.goldzilla.dojiggy.com/>).



Front, left to right: Lou & GR Lacy with Mom, Gail T.; Shelby with Mom, Tina M.

Center Back, Linda R. at the Critters & All Booth

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